

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (canceled).

23. (new) An automatic analyzer comprising:

at least two analytical modules for analyzing living body samples;

at least two conveyer lines for conveying sample racks holding sample containers containing living body samples to said analytical modules;

first and second sample buffers holding a plurality of said sample racks, for supplying desired ones of said sample racks held on said sample buffers to said conveyer lines, and receiving said sample racks from said conveyer lines, said second sample buffer having at least one independent line extended parallel to said conveyer lines, said sample racks being arranged on said independent line in one direction parallel to said conveyer lines;

a sample loading unit for supplying said sample racks to said sample buffers;

a sample collection unit for collecting said sample racks from said sample buffers; and

a line switching unit for moving said sample racks to said independent line from said conveyer units.

24. (new) An automatic analyzer according to claim 23, wherein at least one of said conveyer lines moves back and forth.

25. (new) An automatic analyzer according to claim 23, wherein one of said conveyer lines is dedicated to forward movement and another is dedicated to backward movement.

26. (new) An automatic analyzer according to claim 23, further comprising a conveyer line for conveying said sample racks to one of said sample buffers and for conveying said sample racks to said sample collection unit from one of said sample buffers, said conveyer line moving back and forth.

27. (new) An automatic analyzer according to claim 23, further comprising:

an urgent sample loading unit for receiving an urgent sample and conveying it to said first sample buffer; and

a controller for, when an urgent sample is loaded into the urgent sample loading unit, controlling one of said analytical modules to complete sampling of general samples currently being subjected to sampling, and controlling the conveyer lines to convey general samples still to be subjected to sampling to said first sample buffer, to convey the urgent sample to said one analytical module and to convey general samples in said first sample buffer to said one analytical module after said urgent sample has been analyzed.

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached two replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 7 and 8. These replacement sheets replace the replacement sheets for Figs. 7 and 8 filed November 21, 2007. The numeral 40 has been added to Fig. 7 to indicate a second sample buffer and the numeral 41 has been added to Fig. 8 to indicate a second sample buffer.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets